

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5799

UNCLAS GENEVA 3063

PLEASE PASS ALSO NE JOHNSON, NOAA, ROCKVILLE MD
AND DR. C. MATHEWS, NASA HEADQUARTERS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: WMO

SUBJ: USSR METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE PLANS

1. AT THE CURRENT MEETING OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PANEL
ON METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES, DR. VETLOV INDICATED PLANS OF
THE USSR FOR ITS POLAR ORBITING (METEOR) AND GEOSTATIONARY
METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES.

2. HE STATED THAT A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK IS NOW UNDER
WAY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE METEOR SATELLITE SYSTEM. TESTS
OF THE NEW SATELLITE WILL BE INITIATED EARLY IN 1975. THE ORBIT
WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT USED CURRENTLY AND WILL USE THE PRESENT
THREE CDA GROUND STATIONS. THE SYSTEM WILL PERMIT GLOBAL
COVERAGE TWICE PER DAY WITH ALL OF THE DATA BEING WITHIN THREE
HOURS OF THE 00 AND 12 Z MAP TIMES. THE SENSORS WILL INCLUDE
QTE SCANNING TV CAMERAS IN THE VISIBLE AND SCANNING IR
INSTRUMENTS OF THE TV TYPE UNQTE, TEMPERATURE PROFILE
EQUIPMENT, AND THE DIRECT BROADCAST OF VISIBLE AND INFRARED
EQUIPMENT, AND THE DIRECT BROADCAST OF VISIBLE AND INFRARED
IMAGES. THE SENSOR FOR DIRECT BROADCAST USES THE NODDING
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MIRROR TYPE OF SCANNER WITH RESOLUTION OF 2 KM INVISIBLE,

7-8 KM IN THE INFRARED AND A SCAN RATE OF 120 LINES PER MINUTE. IT WILL BROADCAST IN THE 137-138 MH Z BAND, AND WILL BE COMPATIBLE WITH GROUND EQUIPMENT USED TO RECEIVE APT FROM THE ESSA TYPE SATELLITES. THERE WILL BE A CAPABILITY OF CARRYING EXPERIMENTAL SENSORS. DR. VETLOV GAVE AS EXAMPLES SENSORS TO MEASURE SEA STATE, ZONES OF PRECIPITATION AND SOIL MOISTURE. THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THE USSR PLANS TO FLY EXPERIMENTAL MICROWAVE RADIOMETERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE USSR GEOSTATIONARY METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT IS NOW PLANNED FOR LAUNCH IN LATE 1977 OR EARLY 1978. DR. VETLOV STATED THAT THE SPACECRAFT WAS BEING DESIGNED TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE INFORMAL CGMS (COORDINATION OF GEOSTATIONARY METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITES). THIS WILL INCLUDE IMAGING CAPABILITY IN BOTH THE VISIBLE AND INFRARED, A DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM AND THE BROADCAST OF IMAGES TO LOW COST RECEIVING STATIONS. VERY FEW ENGINEERING DETAILS WERE MADE AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, THE SPACECRAFT WILL UTILIZE THREE-AXIS STABILIZATION. WHILE DR. VETLOV WAS NOT TOO CLEAR ON THIS POINT, IT APPEARS THAT THE USSR HOPES TO INTRODUCE THIS TYPE OF SPACECRAFT INTO THE OPERATIONAL SERVICE, WITH THE FINAL DECISION DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OBTAINED WITH THE FIRST SATELLITE. ABRAMS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED NOAA, ROC(VILLE MD.

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